

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling access of a plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by a single access operation wherein each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases requires a separate driver to access the ~~data-source~~ database so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers;

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API; and

accessing an associated ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by said each driver in response to said merging driver access ~~though~~ through said API,

wherein said single access operation enabled access of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases; and

said single access operation is performed for each of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases to search for stored data related to said single access operation in each of said plurality of databases.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each ~~data-source~~ database to be included in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 wherein one ~~data-source database~~ in said plurality of ~~data-sources databases~~ databases is a merging data source.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
obtaining an ordered result in response to said  
single access operation.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further  
comprising:  
accessing said merging driver through a user  
interface API.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer program product  
comprising a tangible computer readable medium having stored  
therein computer program code for enabling access of a  
plurality of ~~data-sources databases~~ by a single access  
operation wherein each ~~data-source database~~ in said plurality  
of ~~data-sources databases~~ requires a separate driver to access  
the ~~data-source database~~ so that there is a plurality of  
separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for  
each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein  
said API is substantially identical for each of said  
drivers in said plurality of separate drivers;

receiving said single access by a merging driver  
wherein in response to said single access operation, said  
merging driver accesses said plurality of separate drivers  
through said API; and

accessing an associated ~~data-source database~~ database in said  
plurality of ~~data-sources databases~~ by said each driver in  
response to said merging driver access ~~though~~ through said  
API,

wherein said single access operation enabled access of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases; and

said single access operation is performed for each of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases to search for stored data related to said single access operation in each of said plurality of databases.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

receiving from a user a selection of each ~~data-source~~ database to be included in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein one ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases is a merging data source.

9. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

accessing said merging driver through a user interface API.

11. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases;

a driver for each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases thereby forming a plurality of drivers wherein each driver has a substantially identical driver application programming interface; and

a merging driver coupled to each driver in said plurality of drivers through said driver application programming interface wherein said merging driver distributes a single query to each driver in said plurality of drivers so that said single query is directed to each of said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases to search for stored data related to said single query in each of said plurality of databases.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11 wherein one ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases is a merging data source.

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and having stored therein computer program instructions, wherein execution of computer program instructions by said processor comprises a method for enabling access of a plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by a single access operation wherein each ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases requires a separate driver to access the ~~data-source~~ database so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers;

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API; and

accessing an associated ~~data-source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data-sources~~ databases by said each

driver in response to said merging driver access  
~~though~~ through said API,

wherein said single access operation  
enabled access of said plurality of ~~data sources~~  
databases; and

said single access operation is performed  
for each of said plurality of ~~data sources~~  
databases to search for stored data related to  
said single access operation in each of said  
plurality of databases.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, said  
method further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each ~~data source~~  
database to be included in said plurality of ~~data sources~~  
databases.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 14 wherein  
one ~~data source~~ database in said plurality of ~~data sources~~  
databases is a merging data source.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13, said method  
further comprising:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said  
single access operation.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, said  
method further comprising:

accessing said merging driver through a user  
interface API.